



Office of Consumer Counsel Presents to Local Clean Energy Task Force

Taren O'Connor, Rate Specialist with the Office of Consumer Counsel ("OCC") attended the April 10th meeting of the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force and gave a presentation on the competitive electric market in Connecticut and third party electric suppliers.

Connecticut has been a deregulated marketplace since 1998. Prior to the passage of Public Act 98-28, *An Act Concerning Electric Restructuring*, Connecticut consumers only purchased electricity from their electric distribution company (Connecticut Light & Power or United Illuminating). After deregulation, consumers were given the right to purchase electricity from licensed competitive suppliers. This structure allows for customers to shop around for the best price and for suppliers to participate in a competitive marketplace.

Although the concept behind deregulation is that of customer choice and savings, there have been many cases of aggressive and deceptive sales practices among suppliers, which have led to consumers being surprised by variable rates and high bills.

OCC is currently participating in an investigative proceeding going on at the Public Utility Regulatory Authority ("PURA") in Docket Number 13-07-18, *PURA Establishment of Rules for Electric Suppliers and EDC's Concerning Operations and Marketing in the Electric Retail Market*.

The OCC encourages customers to review their bill on a regular basis and know the terms of their contract if they purchase their electricity through a competitive supplier.

To file a complaint with PURA, call 1-800-382-4586 or visit www.ct.gov/pura.

